



1st Infantry Division

ENGINEER BRIGADE

September/
October '04



Greetings to all our Sapper families and friends from Iraq. By the time this reaches you we should be well into the school year, with all the great seasonal activities of the fall; football, soccer, Halloween, etc. It may not feel exactly "fall like" in Iraq just yet not too many trees down here that change color, but the mornings at least are cooler now, and the edge is coming off the heat at mid-day. It won't be long before we'll all be "freezing" when it's only 85 degrees F! With fall comes another activity, at least this year, and that's elections. I encourage each and every one of you to exercise your rights as a US citizen and make your voice heard. Regardless of your personal choice, your choice only matters if you make your preference known at the ballot box. Please see the Rear Detachment Commanders or our installation voting officers if you need assistance. As for Iraq, we too are readying for elections, not ours, but Iraqi ones. Our primary mission right now is setting the conditions for a free, fair, and representative Iraqi national election in January. That will take a lot of work, both in security and physical structures. Engineers are playing a key role in these missions, as well as in accelerating the pace of reconstruction across the four provinces in 1st ID's sector. Through initiatives such as regional reconstruction conferences, Engineers in all our units are working side by side with Iraqi government officials, program managers from Baghdad, and local contractors to get things rolling. A huge accomplishment this month was the completion of the Tikrit Bridge, a joint effort between the Iraqi government, USAID, 1st ID Engineers and civilian contractors. We also stay quite busy making constant improvements on our base camps and force protection postures, as well as continuous route clearance missions to find, destroy or prevent IEDs. I can't express how proud I am of the dedication and sacrifice of each and every member of the Engineer Team here in Iraq, and how equally proud and grateful I am for the patience, perseverance, and hard work of our Read Detachments and Family Members keeping things going in the rear while we focus on mission downrange. I recently had an opportunity during my R&R to visit with the FRG Steering Groups of both 9E and 82E, as well as the Engr Bde's meeting. It was very refreshing and reassuring, although not surprising, to see the level of activity, dedication, and courage that permeated each of these groups. You do us proud and have our eternal gratitude for all that you are doing to help make this overall mission a success. All I ask is that you continue what you are doing through the months ahead. We're more than half way through the deployment, but our return is still a bit off, so we all have to pace ourselves, while also not losing momentum. My best to each and every one of you; stay safe and please keep up all the great things you are doing!

Respectfully,

Colonel Bill Haight
Devastator 6

I would like to start off by thanking all of the Family Members of the Engineer Brigades extended family. The Soldiers of the Engineer Brigade appreciate your support so very much and it makes a difficult deployment like this much more bearable when we know that you are all behind us with your support and concern. We have had a very busy month here in Tikrit. We are supporting missions throughout the entire sector. We supported the successful mission in Samarra with outstanding Sappers from the 9th Engineer Battalion leading the way into the city to our own Public Works Team controlling the power along with our PSD team. We secured some key facilities during the most critical phase of the operation to allow our forces to enter the city with minimal losses. The Engineer Brigade was praised for our ability to assist our maneuver forces by the Commanding General. We also continue to support the rebuilding efforts by constantly engaging all of the various agencies that are operating in the 1st ID sector. We ensure that their efforts are consistent with the goals of the Division commander in supporting the employment of as many Iraqi's as possible and improving the Iraqi peoples quality of life. There is no other unit in the entire 1st ID who accomplishes a more varied and challenging mission than the Soldiers of the Engineer Brigade. We were also able to take some time and recognize two great Soldiers who were wounded in a firefight in Bayji. Specialist Hoaglin and PFC Lyle received their Purple Hearts for this action. They are the embodiment of the 1st Infantry Divisions motto "Duty First" for even after being wounded they wanted to go back and get the enemy that shot at them. You can be proud of your Soldier that is serving their country here in Iraq. Their efforts will ensure that the sacrifices we have made will lead to a free and democratically governed country that will obey the rule of law. That is our mission and we will not fail. Once again I want to thank you for your continued support and we are looking forward to the day when we are re-united with all of our loved ones. Sappers Attack!

Robert A. Winzenried
Engineer Brigade, CSM

Visit our website: <http://www.1id.army.mil/1id/Units/eng/index.htm>

HHD, ENG BDE Newsletter

"Headhunter Chronicle"



Congratulations on the Newest Family Member!

On 8 August 2004, Nia Olympia Nicole Williamson was born to Katrin Nies and SPC James Williamson. She was 6 pounds and 20 inches long. SPC Williamson was finally able to see her

later that month while home on R&R! Congratulations! These are some of the pictures of Nia!



Over Half Way Thru! By CPT Halter

On the same day as Nia was born, HHD went over the halfway mark for the deployment! This is the point that everything turns downhill. Some of the highlights of this significant turning point include an increase in R&R slots. The HHD has been lucky in their August and September allocations. Just a couple days ago, 1s Infantry Division announced that they have worked hard to get the units the slots they need to ensure all those eligible will get R&R leave. So those of you who have been waiting to see their soldier for his/her couple of weeks R&R leave, their time is coming! Another exciting event that is happening is preparing our replacements for their deployment into the theater. 42nd Infantry Division from New York State will replace the 1st Infantry Division starting in December with an expected completed hand off sometime in February. The units within the 1ID will redeploy little by little. Some brigades will be on their way home before others so that there can be an orderly hand off. The bottomline is that there really is someone who will be coming to take your soldier's place in the mission here in Iraq. Now that September is here the incredible heat here in Iraq is slowly starting to decrease. Okay, so it is still over 110 degrees most days but the days of 120 and 130 degrees are slowly fading! It won't be long until you can expect your soldier to be asking for blankets, long underwear, cocoa, and anything else that will keep them warm! In another month you will be able to send chocolate again – just in time for Halloween! We know this deployment has been just as long for you at home as the soldiers deployed here. We

thank you for hanging in there and sending us notes and boxes of encouragement! Believe me, we will be very happy to join you once again in 2005!

Farewell to CPT Dan Young and his wife, Lori. They depart for Italy where Dan will take command of the Engineer Company in the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Farewell to SPC George McMichael and PFC Zacari Jackson. Both soldiers are being assigned to 82nd Engineer Battalion and the Bluebabe Team! Good luck everyone!

Not new to BDE but new to HHD: Hail to SPC Dwaine Crain, SPC Jacob Wazcovsky, SPC Jason Mahoney, PV2 Tyler Jones, LT Mike Miller, and MSG Robert Casteel. These soldiers come to us from the 82nd Engineer Battalion. SPC Wazcovsky and PV2 Jones have joined the PSD and SPC Crain joins the S3 shop. SPC Mahoney joins the DTAC. LT Miller joins the Project Coordination Office (PCO). His wife Crissie and daughter Kylie are in Bamberg. MSG Casteel works as a brigade battle captain. His wife Jennifer and Daughter Hannah are both in Bamberg! Welcome all!

Hail also to 2LT Aida Martinez and CPT Dan Meyers who made it to theater mid-August and CPT Alice Conner who transferred from G6! 2LT Martinez is working hard as the Assistant S2 while CPT Holt's on R&R. Her husband, 2LT James Pence, is a platoon leader with the 82 EN and her son, Joshua, is in the states with family. CPT Meyers joins the Project Coordination Office. His wife Sabine is in Bamberg. CPT Conner takes over the S6 position.

9th ENGINEER BATTALION

Hi: September means back to school...I'm sure that parents are glad to hear those words. For us it means that the temperature is starting to drop and we are one month closer to coming home. September has been a big month for promotions. Congratulations to 1LT Royston, 1LT Bauer, SFC Clayton, SFC Kirkwood, SSG Gutierrez, and SSG Wade (and their families) who were all promoted on 1 September.



SSG Beatty and family after receiving Purple Heart for wounds received in Iraq

Walter Reed Hospital near Washington, D.C. Their recovery from IED attacks is going well and the funds will help their families travel to visit them. We also held a sports competition on Labor Day...running, triathlon, horseshoes, volleyball, soccer, ping pong and foosball events. HHC was not able to defend their 4th of July victory as Alpha was crowned the current commander's trophy winner.

The past month we destroyed several tons of captured enemy ammunition. This not only keeps the ammunition out of the Anti Iraqi Forces hands but makes it safer for the children and people of Iraq. We are infrastructure projects throughout the Province to improve wastewater and sanitation. A \$400,000 project was completed fully repairs a water treatment plant and now provides water. We continue to train with our partnership company, the 30 Disposal Company and they are almost ready to assume out our website for other news stories from around the Task Force.

The R&R leave program is working well. It looks like every opportunity to take advantage of leave before the end of R&R are allocated by the Task Force and we monitor the soldiers. So far the allocations have been fair although the and October may shift for some units. Our soldiers will get may be at a different time than originally scheduled.

I remain humbled by the support and prayers we continue to receive from you. Your sons, daughters and spouses continue to make a difference for the people of Iraq and you have every reason to be proud of them.

LTC Blair Schantz
9th Engineer Battalion

Greetings again from the 9th Engineer

Battalion Rear Detachment. September is here, kids are going back to school, and as always our FRGs are doing an outstanding job supporting, informing, and helping the families in the rear.

On August 24th, one of our Rear Detachment soldiers, SSG Beatty, received the Purple Heart for wounds he received while in Iraq with Bravo Company. LTG Sanchez, the V Corps Commander, presented the award in front of an audience of family members, Rear Detachment leaders, General Bell (USAREUR Cdr), and General Jones (EUCOM Cdr). During this same ceremony, Mrs. Sabine Deans (C Company) and Mrs. Era Sue Lowenthal (B Company) received plaques in recognition of their contributions to the community and the Battalion. Congratulations to all of our Gila Heroes!

On August 28th, we held a 9E Back To School Barbeque at Kessler Field. Though the weather didn't cooperate, we had a great time getting together in the fest tent, eating some burgers and ribs, and watching the kids enjoy some of the great games and entertainment available. The Inflatable Obstacle Course was by far the big attraction of the day, providing an excellent avenue for all that childhood summertime energy. Lots of food, raffle prizes, games, and pictures rounded out a truly fun day of events. Thanks to all the spouses and soldiers that made this day happen and a big thanks to those who turned out to make it all worthwhile.

With the recent approval of extending the R&R program into December, the Division will now be able to send 100% of deployed soldiers home on R&R. This is great news and a major improvement on projections made only 2 months ago. Don't forget that the Schweinfurt Family Life Chaplain gives a great seminar on how to make the most of R&R and reunions. Please call the Rear Detachment or the Family Life Chaplain Office for details on the next seminar.

Back To School Barbeque



Chaplain remind everyone to go to the FRG website by going to 98asg.army.mil and clicking on "FRG". The website provides up to date news and information. Please let all your loved ones know about the FRG website or any other information. You can reach me at 98asg.army.mil



82nd Engineer Battalion

BLUEBABE!

Dear Friends and Family of Task Force 82nd Engineer,



Greetings from Baqubah, Iraq. We have just completed our 6th month of service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. We continue to make a difference for the good people of Iraq everyday. The heat here is unlike what many of the BLUE BABE Soldiers have ever

experienced and comes at a time when our operational tempo is also at a high point. The entire Task Force has worked diligently on keeping improvised explosive devices off our main supply routes. One area in particular we spent 158 of the 168 hour week patrolling the roads both day and night. The Soldiers continue to do a great job supporting this mission and keeping each other safe.

This month the Task Force has included in their operations opportunities to train. This week we are conducting demolition proficiency training as well as mine recognition training at the Butler Range Complex. Each company has enjoyed their short time off the highway and down on the range doing combat engineer training. A short break from the reality of our mission being motorized infantry.

This month I want to focus on C Company. C Company is a Company Team with armor and infantry elements attached to them from 2-2 IN and 2-63 AR. 1st Platoon is supporting 2-63 AR. Changing their nickname from Crater to Rock, Charlie Rock has continued to execute a very complex and demanding mission. Company C is responsible for fixed site security at the Diyala Radio Tower and often provides the Task Force Quick Reaction Force. The company provides security and government assistance to a town West of FOB GABE and provides training assistance to a very well respected Iraqi National Guard Company. Under the leadership of CPT Holland and 1SG Cooper, the company has grown and developed into a very experienced and quality team.

Just yesterday, 2nd Platoon, after being attacked by a roadside bomb, closed with and captured two insurgents who were responsible for detonating the improvised explosive device. This was an awesome victory and all the Soldiers of the Task Force are proud of their actions.

This month we also transitioned our Task Force Operations officer and say so long to MAJ Pressley Carr as he heads to FOB DANGER to support the DTAC as the Engineer Brigade S3 and welcome MAJ Joel Quinn who previously was the Division ADE. Over 40% of our Soldiers have now taken R&R and we appreciate every family refilling their Soldier's tank and charging their batteries while together. As we continue our second half of the deployment we truly are on the down slope to returning to you, our loved ones! Keep the home fires burning!

God Bless.

Gerry O'Connor
BLUE BABE 6



I would like to welcome families back from their summer vacations. We will continue to work toward maintaining effective communication between the Rear Detachment and family members.

We have officially passed the half way mark of this deployment. We ask families to remain flexible. As our predecessors from 4ID and units from 1AD can tell you, no timeline is ever set in stone and the enemy does have a vote.

The R&R program is well on its way and will continue through the next three months. Please be patient as the unit continues to send soldiers home as soon as possible. The Division's goal is still to have 100% of our soldiers participate in the program.

The FRG's are also looking ahead and planning events for the upcoming holidays, so watch your mailboxes for additional information.

As this is my last newsletter, I would like to thank a few people for all of their support during the last eight months. Without their support and dedication the Rear Detachment would not have been successful as it has been. I would like to extend a special thanks to the Battalion Advisors; Mrs. Amy O'Connor, Mrs. Fay Gioia, and Mrs. Trina Haro. I would like to recognize our Company Family Readiness Group Leaders; Mrs. Angela Evenson, Mrs. Cheryl Stewart, Mrs. Nicole Holland and Mrs. Donna Reid for all of their hard work and dedication to the families of this Battalion. Finally the Permanent Rear Detachment who continuously accomplished the impossible.

Blue Babe, Sir!!!
CPT Shay Douglas



264th ENGINEER GROUP

Dear Family and Friends: I extend my greetings once again from sunny and dry Iraq. We have recently started our eighth month overseas and nine months on active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II. We continue to busy ourselves with construction design, development and management. Our subordinate units are our execution arm and they have been extremely busy with force protection and quality of life construction projects throughout the 1st Infantry Division area of operation.

We have had an exciting month distributing school supplies to local villages. We were able to have several of our soldiers exposed to the poverty and need of Iraqi children. Our battalions from Ohio and North Dakota participated in "Operation Shoe Box" where they distributed shoes to the village people. We also provided soccer uniforms and equipment along with establishing a medical walk-in clinic with our Physician Assistant and medics. Finally, we continue to work on getting a ten month old son of an Iraqi contractor with Spina Bifida evaluated and cleared to go to the United States for necessary surgeries.

As I provide highlights of what the 264th Engineer Group is doing with its time, I am always encouraged with the progress we are making in helping to improve the infrastructure of the communities in our area. Using captured Iraqi funds from the Saddam regime MAJ Pat Beyer and his assistant SPC Cassidy Phillips have secured over one million dollars with another million requested to improve water treatment and distribution, remodel medical clinics and schools along with electrical distribution and road improvements in approximately twenty area communities. We have plans to continue to increase our emphasis in this critical area as the new fiscal year promises significant funding increases. We now have fourteen professional Iraqi engineers working for us and they are responsible to do the design of the projects in addition to the quality assurance and quality control. It has developed into great partnership and we recently added a Corps of Engineer office adjacent to our headquarters and they are part of our growing construction engineering team.

An invaluable piece of our construction success is our Class IV yard which contains all forms of building materials. Through the untiring efforts of our S4 section consisting of MAJ Troy Torgerson, MSG Tom McGuire, SFC James Linz, SGT Carrie Peterson and SPC Anna Gates our construction projects receive the necessary lumber, plumbing, electrical and just about any thing else one would find in a Home Depot. During the first five months of our deployment, they have distributed \$38 million in building materials; SFC Linz and three soldiers from our Ohio battalion loaded over 2,000 concrete barriers for force protection on our 28 bases; distributed 20,000 sheets of plywood and 100,000 2X4s; and, supported 1,400 self-help troop projects from various units in the 1st Infantry Division. They are to be commended for an outstanding effort and for providing a significant contribution to the overall war fighting effort.

Yesterday we took time to pause and reflect on what September 11th, 2001 means to us. The world was at peace before that dreadful day and we are here today as a result. In memorializing the 75 soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of peace, we dedicated a fountain and courtyard built in their honor. I would ask that you keep the families of these soldiers in your prayers including the five from the 264th Engineer Group (three from Ohio and two from North Dakota). I am reminded daily that we are here to fight terrorism on Iraqi soil rather than in the United States. Our mission is to stamp out terrorism in order that our children and our children's children can live a life of peace and security.

As I close another month and another letter I continue to be in awe of the sons and daughters and the wives and husbands I serve along side every day. Their attitudes, work ethic, dedication and love for you and their country are unsurpassed. Our strength is in our purpose and in our vision. Our God, our families, our love for our country and our sense of service and sacrifice blend our vision into every day reality and lend purpose to the hardship we all face with our separation. I commend you for the part you play as we long to be reunited and back safely with each of you. Continue to press and always remember that "united we serve and united we stand".

Arthur C. Zuleger
Colonel, US Army
Commanding

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ENGR

Task Force Sapper

Hello to all from the 11D Engineer Brigade Rear Detachment. I know you are all glad to have the kids back in school and get daily life back into a rhythm again. We are really entering the home stretch now with this deployment. It won't be long now before we will start publishing redeployment and reintegration details and time lines. Thank you all for your steadfast support to our soldiers and the 11D Engineer Brigade during the past eight months.



It was great to have our Brigade Commander, COL Haight, back for some well deserved rest and relaxation recently. He attended the Steering Committee meetings for Brigade and both Battalions and walked away very impressed. The dedication and passion our FRG volunteers bring to the Brigade were evident as always and appreciated by COL Haight. He enjoyed presenting volunteer recognition certificates to several of our spouses as well as some coveted Devastator 6 coins.

Our Division has a great new program where each Battalion in the Division now has a dedicated social work officer available for family members and returning soldiers. The 82nd Engineer Battalion has 1LT Jim Neek from Social Work Services available at DSN 469-8795 while the 9th Engineer Battalion has Mr. Justin Thomas available at DSN 354-6276. These experts are available for any social work that our families may require now or after our soldiers return from Iraq.

Congratulations to CPT Shay Douglas who recently gave birth to her son Michael. CPT Douglas will be moving to the Brigade S-3 shop after her maternity leave, while CPT Jon Drake replaces her as the 82nd ENG BN Rear Detachment Commander. CPT Drake recently gave up command of A/82nd ENG and will bring his veteran experience to the 82nd ENG Battalion Rear Detachment Team.

Thanks again for all your steadfast support for our great soldiers in the 11D Engineer Brigade. Your strength and resolve is felt by all our soldiers in Iraq as they complete this most difficult mission. You can always reach our EOC 24-hours a day, 7 days a week. Please call 0951-300-8982/83 if you need immediate assistance with anything during the deployment.

MAJ(P) David R. Kennedy
TF Sapper
Rear Detachment Commander

It's time again for our next newsletter. Your soldiers downrange continue to do an outstanding job and we support them 100%. School has started and Fall is fast approaching. The FRG and the Bamberg Community have lots of different scheduled activities to keep everyone busy. The R&R program is running along very smoothly. There have been a couple of aircraft delays, however, the Rear Detachment strives to keep you informed on the latest arrival information on your spouses.

We have had many spouses traveling to many different places. That is great! But I ask that you please let us know if you are going to be gone for an extended period of time in case we need to get a hold of you. A reminder that winter is right around the corner and you need to check your vehicles to make sure they are ready for the cold weather. As we get closer to the holiday season more information will come out on the events planned both by the FRG and the community.

The EOC can put you in contact with either myself or MAJ Kennedy. Again, if you need assistance please let me know.

SFC Michael Borck
TF Sapper
Rear Detachment NCOIC

